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PP RUEHROV
DE RUEHLO #2084 2211559
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P 081559Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9459
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0396
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 002084

SIPDIS
NOFORN

EMBASSY NAIROBI FOR SOMALIA SECTION

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PBTS](#) [PINR](#) [SO](#) [UK](#)
SUBJECT: SOMALIA: BEHIND THE SCENES OF UK SUPPORT TO
SOMALILAND

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard Mills, reasons 1.4 (b/d).

1. (C/NF) Following his mid-June visit to Somaliland, FCO Minister of State Kim Howells began questioning HMG's decision not to recognize Somaliland.
2. (C/NF) According to Barnes, Howells wrote to Foreign Secretary David Miliband upon his return from Somaliland, speaking in glowing terms at length.
3. (C/NF) MP for the Welsh constituency of Pontypridd (in greater Cardiff), Howells represents a large number of Somalilanders, whose strong support for the UK is well known.
4. (C/NF) There is no evidence to indicate that HMG will recognize Somaliland as an independent nation, especially with HMG officials focused on the situation in Somalia.